

Message Text

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70

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OIC-04 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 COME-00 HEW-08 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 202017Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5441

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON SPOP UNWPC

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: CARACAS 7936

1. IN A LAST MINUTE SWITCH THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE ONLY BY ITS AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA, JUAN USLAR PIETRI. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, WHO PREVIOUSLY WAS SLATED TO HEAD A VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, DECIDED NOT TO DO SO REPUTEDLY DUE TO UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES OVER THE TECHNICAL PAPER TO BE PRESENTED BY VENEZUELA.

2. THE OFFICIAL WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR POPULATION AFFAIRS PRIVATELY EXPRESSES THE OPINION THAT THE PRESSURES INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW MINISTERIAL BUDGET DECIDED THE MINISTER AGAINST ATTENDING.

3. COMMENT: THIS LACK OF INTEREST BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ TO PROMOTE FAMILY PLANNING WITHIN VENEZUELA. IT DOES REFLECT, HOWEVER, THE GOV'S ATTITUDE THAT THE POPULATION ISSUE IS ONE TO BE RESOLVED BY EACH COUNTRY AS IT SEES FIT. RECENT CRITICISM OF THE GOV'S

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FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM AS "FOREIGN INSTIGATED" HAS BEEN VOICED BY

DISSIDENT PHYSICIANS AND THE CHURCH HIERARCHY. THE GOV PROBABLY
DECIDED IT COULD SIDESTEP A POTENTIAL PROBLEM BY NOT SENDING A
DELEGATION.

4. AMBASSADOR USLAR PIETRI IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO PREVIOUSLY
WAS VENEZUELAN AMBAASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CINA AND TO DENMARK.
HE IS THE BROTHER OF VENEZUELA'S LEADING INTELLECTUAL, DR.
ARTURO USLAR PIETRI, WHO HAS TAKEN A PROMINENT ROLE IN PROMOTING
FAMILY PLANNING IN VENEZUELA.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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